

NANKING RETREAT TURNED INTO ROUT

Defenders' Morale Suddenly
Breaks and Frenzied
Flight Begins.

(C. Yates McDaniel, Associated Press
Correspondent, stayed in Nanking
throughout its siege and conquest by
Japanese forces. Because of disrupted
communications, he was unable to
transmit his story until today. His
account was relayed by wireless from
the Japanese destroyer Tsuga.)

By C. YATES MCDANIEL.
ABOARD THE DESTROYER
TSUGA, Dec. 17.—The morale of Chinese
armies defending Nanking broke
suddenly Sunday afternoon.
What had been planned as a slow,
ordered retreat turned into a wild
route, Nanking had a night of terror.
Thousands of Chinese soldiers fought
to escape from the city by a single
gate.
And on Monday the Rising Sun
flag of Japan was raised over the
city's walls.
Retreating troops were entering
Nanking in apparently good order
and good spirits. Suddenly, Sunday
afternoon, a brigade which had been
hammered throughout the day broke
from its position and dashed into the
city.

Pass American Embassy.
The soldiers ran past the American
Embassy, scattering crowds of civilians
before them, and shouting: "The
Japanese are within the city. We
are surrounded."
The first route was stopped a hun-
dreds yards past the embassy by mili-
tary police, who opened fire on its
leaders, killing six of them and turn-
ing back the rest.
But the mad infection raced through
the city.

By dark Nanking's main streets
were filled with troops from all posi-
tions outside the walls. First they
walked. Then they broke into a wild
run. As the pace quickened, panic-
stricken Chinese soldiers shed their
rifles, helmets and uniforms.

Wounded Wander Helplessly.
The wounded who were able to walk
wandered helplessly through the
streets. Many soldiers were shot by
their comrades in the stampede to
the river gate on the west—the door-
way to escape.

Near the war ministry a truck
stalled. Within a few minutes the
roadway was jammed with men, pack
mules, new French 75-millimeter guns,
anti-aircraft guns and baby tanks.

Some one tried to break the jam
by setting fire to a gasoline truck.
Soon the flames reached ammunition
wagons. Shells exploded. Animals
and humans near the jam were
killed, burned or mangled.

The river gate sandbag barricade
turned out to be a death trap for
many. Some were shot down by curs-
ing comrades.

The fallen were trampled into a
shapeless pulp. Before the gate's
superstructure was burned by guards
attempting to turn the tide, thousands
reached the Yangtze and crossed to
Pukow in junks, sampans and
launches. Many were drowned in
the crossing.

Other thousands who fled through
the gate melted into the darkness
in the narrow strip of countryside not
then reached by encircling Japanese.

I was unable to force my way
through the howling mass, so I took
a roundabout route to my home, which
overlooks the river gate and the city
wall.

Government Building Fired.
The panic-stricken Chinese set fire
to munitions stored in the basement
of the million-dollar Communications
Ministry Building, the largest and
most handsome structure in the city.
Three hours later it was a smoldering
ruin.

At 3 o'clock Monday morning came
another series of shattering explosions.
Salvo after salvo of Chinese artillery
fire roared outside the walls.
Projectiles screamed overhead. The
riverside and hillside batteries which
supposedly made Nanking impregna-
ble from river attack unlimbered,
the gunners firing in whatever direction
their pieces happened to be pointing
when they decided to join their com-
rades in flight.

Throughout the night I heard the
wild cries of Chinese, rifle fire and
clattering explosions. Japanese ar-
tillery batteries pounding steadily in
the south.

At sunrise I saw the remaining
city wall defenders 200 yards away,
engaged in a futile attempt to halt
the Japanese advance.

I was afraid I might be caught be-
tween the defenders of the wall and
the Japanese pushing northward
through the city, so I walked around
sandbag and barbed-wire barricades
and reached the United States Em-
bassy.

Later in the morning I found that
the Japanese had reached Nanking's
northeastern entrance, "the Gate of
Benevolent Peace."

I got there just in time to see Ja-
panese scouts crawl through a breach in
the gate and nail the Rising Sun flag
to a mast. I was stopped once at pistol
point by a Cantonese unit holding a
crossroads, apparently unaware that
their officers had deserted them and
that they were surrounded by the enemy.

Throughout the day I met Chinese
units wandering aimlessly through the
streets asking: "Where is headquar-
ters?"

Monday Japanese were mopping up
remnants of Chinese troops inside the
walls.

Tuesday 13 Japanese destroyers and

Sniper Arrested by Japanese



A Chinese plainclothes sniper caught in an empty building near Soochow Creek is taken to Japanese army headquarters on Brennan road, Shanghai. His hands are tied behind his back with a piece of grass rope.

gunboats arrived at the water front
and strafed Chinese hiding across the
river in Pukow. Encirclement of the
city was completed.

Japanese cavalry forced their way
into Riverside Gate over a still smol-
dering mass of human pulp.
Chinese losses during the four-day
fight in and around Nanking were
about 5,000. Several hundred more
were shot or trampled in the rout.
Thousands of Chinese soldiers and several
hundred civilians.

I had no way of knowing the extent
of Japanese casualties, but I saw sev-
eral hundred white boxes containing
ashes of the dead and several score
of mule litters with wounded brought
into Nanking.

ROBINSONS MYSTERY DEEPENS IN SECRECY

By the Associated Press.

MOSCOW, Dec. 17.—The mystery
of the mysterious "Mr. and Mrs. Don-
ald L. Robinson" of New York sank
into the impenetrable secrecy of official
silence today.

The government newspaper Izvestia
indicated yesterday they had been ar-
rested on suspicion of espionage, and
American circles doubted anything
further would be revealed, at least in
the near future. (The couple en-

tered Russia under passports obtained
fraudulently. Federal agents in New
York worked on a theory the "Robin-
sons" were agents of an American
Communist group opposed to the
present regime in Russia.)

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL WREATHS

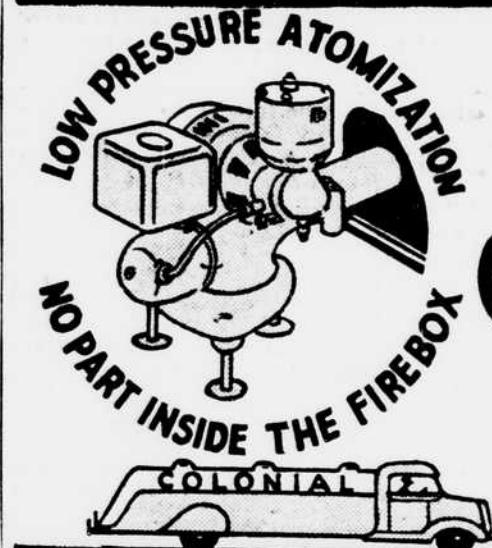


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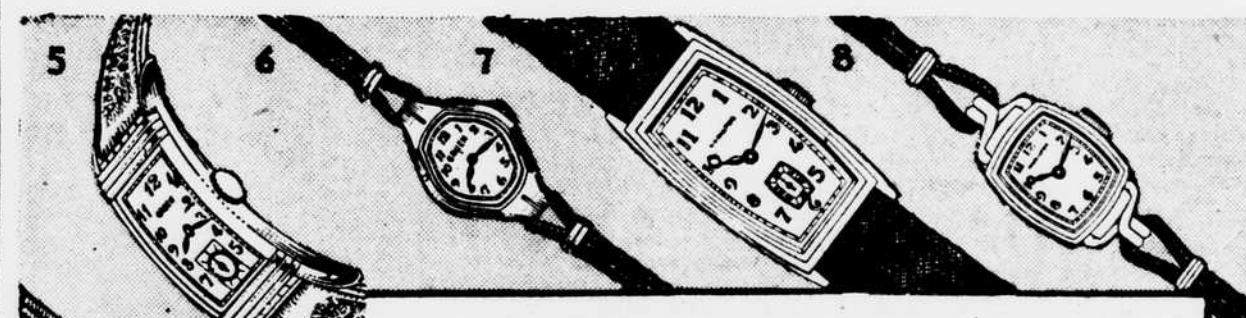
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RUSSIAN ARRESTS HIT BY JAPANESE

Action Held "Unthinkable"
in Civilized Country—An-
swer Demanded.

By the Associated Press.

TOKIO, Dec. 17.—The Japanese
foreign office today formally charged
the Soviet Union with acting in a
manner "utterly unthinkable in any
civilized country" in connection with
arrests of Japanese in Russia.

The foreign office protested to the
Soviet Embassy, citing what Japan
called numerous cases in which Soviet
authorities had arrested Japanese and
held them without trial.

A memorandum accompanying the
protest said Japan wished a "respon-
sible" answer.

Almost concurrently the Tokio news-
paper Yomiuri charged that Russia
was continuing to strengthen her mili-
tary forces at Vladivostok, Russia's
Far Eastern seaport.

Russia was sending 2 cruisers, 18
submarines and 6 destroyers to the
port next week, Yomiuri asserted. The
newspaper added that the Moscow

government moved 600 pilots and 110
planes to Vladivostok last week.
(Chinese press reports received
at Shanghai said Russia had com-
pleted an underground airdrome
at Vladivostok capable of housing
150 planes and had reinforced her
armed forces there by more than
85,000 men.)

(The Russian port, at the south-
ern tip of a neck of Russian terri-
tory that curves around the eastern
frontier of Japanese-dominated
Manchukuo, lies about 400 miles
from the nearest Japanese coastline
and about 650 air miles from Tokio.)
The foreign office statement of the
Russian Embassy said in part:

"On November 4 an unknown wom-
an handed Daiji Takahashi, director
of a Japanese company at Vladivostok,
an envelope on the street. Immedi-
ately several officials who were evi-
dently lying in ambush arrested him and took
the letter declaring he would be
indicted for 'espionage.'"

Takahashi was placed in detention.
His trial has not yet been held.

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Japanese authorities have been con-
ducting negotiations in order to learn
the results of the investigation and
also to inquire as to the condition
of Takahashi's health.
"Soviet officials failed entirely to
submit any information on these
points."
The protest listed other similar
cases, asserting that Soviet authori-
ties accused each Japanese of "mili-
tary espionage," but failed to place
them on trial. The foreign office de-
clared the Japanese were held in-
communicado at Haborovsk.
The protest said the Japanese Em-
bassy at Moscow had protested several
times, demanding that the Japanese
either be tried or freed but, the note
added, the Russian officials evaded
the issue.

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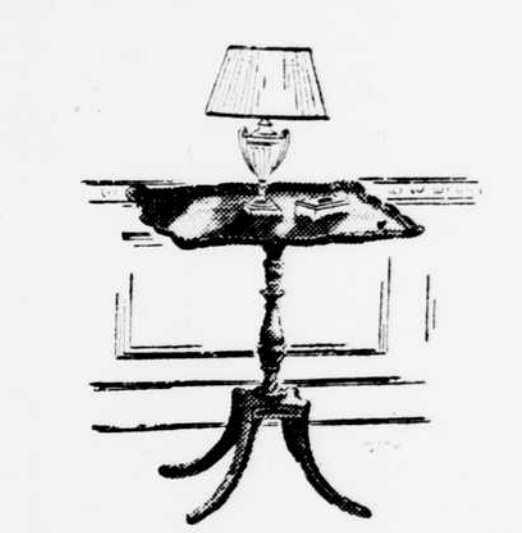
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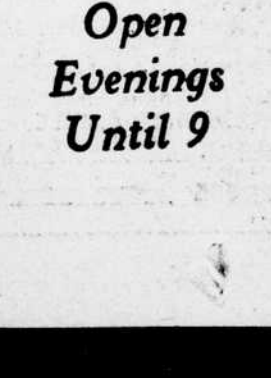
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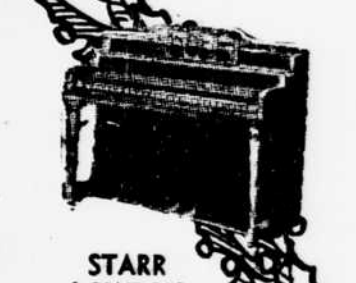
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